

IN THE CLAIMS:

CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for monitoring the performance of an apparatus having user serviceable components, comprising the steps of:
performing initial calibration procedure to produce a first performance metric;
performing a subsequent calibration procedure to produce a second performance metric;
comparing said second performance metric with said first performance metric,
and
outputting a performance factor indicative of a change in performance resulting from a change in the user serviceable components.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of sending a notification that said performance factor has crossed a predetermined threshold.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of disabling the apparatus if the performance factor has a crossed a predetermined threshold
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said initial calibration procedure is performed prior to the time a user serviceable component is replaced.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said initial calibration procedure is performed at the time of manufacture of the apparatus.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said subsequent calibration procedure is performed when one of the user serviceable components is replaced.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of communicating said performance factor to a service provider.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein said communicating step is accomplished via the Internet.

9 – 14 (Canceled)

15. (Original) An apparatus having user serviceable components enabled to monitor its own performance, the apparatus comprising:

means for performing an initial calibration procedure to produce a first performance metric;

means for performing a subsequent calibration procedure to produce a second performance metric;

means for comparing said second performance metric with said first performance metric; and

means for outputting a performance factor indicative of a change in performance resulting from a change in the user serviceable components.

16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein said means for outputting further provides a notification when said performance factor has crossed a predetermined threshold.

17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 further comprising a means for disabling the apparatus if said performance factor has a crossed a predetermined threshold

18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein said means for performing an initial calibration procedure operates at the time of manufacture of the apparatus.

19. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein said means for performing said subsequent calibration procedure when one of the user serviceable components is replaced.

20. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 further comprising a means for communicating said performance factor to a service provider.

21. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20 wherein said means for communicating interfaces to the Internet.

22. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein said apparatus is a printer.

23 – 24 (Canceled)

25. (New) A method including the steps of:
performing a first calibration procedure to produce a first performance metric;
performing a second calibration procedure to produce a second performance metric; and
comparing said first performance metric with said second performance metric and outputting a performance factor in response thereto.

26. (New) An apparatus having user serviceable components enabled to monitor its own performance, the apparatus comprising:
means for performing a first calibration procedure to produce a first performance metric;
means for performing a second calibration procedure to produce a second performance metric; and
means for comparing said second performance metric with said first performance metric and outputting a performance factor in response thereto.